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Attorney's Docket No.: 17601-043001 / 067083.0205

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Joseph A. Zupanick  
Serial No. : 10/630,345  
Filed : July 29, 2003  
Title : METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING SUBTERRANEAN DEPOSITS  
FROM THE SURFACE AND TOOLS THEREFOR

Art Unit : 3673  
Examiner : John J. Kreck

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits the attached form PTO-1449 accompanied by copies of any foreign patent documents and non-patent literature. A copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a related application is also enclosed.

This statement is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. A check for \$180 in payment of the late submission fee of §1.17(p) is enclosed. Please apply any deficiencies or any other required fees or any credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/11/05

Joshua A. Griswold  
Reg. No. 46,310

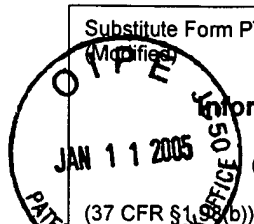
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
5000 Bank One Center  
1717 Main Street  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
Telephone: (214) 292-4034  
Facsimile: (214) 747-2091

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) 	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Attorney's Docket No. 17601-043001	Application No. 10/630,345
	<b>Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)			
	Applicant Joseph A. Zupanick		Filing Date July 29, 2003	Group Art Unit 3673

### U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Patentee	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A1	3,744,565	07/10/1973	Brown			
	A2	4,060,130	11/29/1977	Hart			
	A3	4,417,829	11/29/1983	Berezoutzky			
	A4	4,889,186	12/26/1989	Hanson et al.			
	A5	5,676,207	10/14/1997	Simon et al.			
	A6	6,237,284	05/29/2001	Erickson			
	A7	2002/0043404 A1	04/18/2002	Trueman et al.			
	A8	2004/0140129 A1	07/22/2004	Gardes			
	A9	2004/0226719 A1	11/18/2004	Morgan et al.			

### Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document Number	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	B1	EP 1 316 673 A2	06/04/2003	EPO			N/A	
	B2	SU-876968	10/30/1981	Russia			Y	
	B3	442,008	01/23/1936	United Kingdom			N/A	
	B4	444,484	03/17/1936	United Kingdom			N/A	
	B5	651,468	04/04/1951	United Kingdom			N/A	
	B6	893,869	04/18/1962	United Kingdom			N/A	
	B7	WO 2004/035984 A1	04/29/2004	WIPO			N/A	

### Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)

Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	C1	Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (5 pages) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (6 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/012029 mailed September 22, 2004
	C2	Brunner, D.J. and Schwoebel, J.J., "Directional Drilling for Methane Drainage and Exploration in Advance of Mining," REI Drilling Directional Underground, World Coal, 1999, 10 pages

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

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		Filing Date July 29, 2003	Group Art Unit 3673

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	C3	Thakur, P.C., "A History of Coalbed Methane Drainage From United States Coal Mines," 2003 SME Annual Meeting, February 24-26, Cincinnati, Ohio, 4 pages
	C4	U.S. Climate Change Technology Program, "Technology Options for the Near and Long Term," 4.1.5 Advances in Coal Mine Methane Recovery Systems, pp. 162-164
	C5	Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (3 pages) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (7 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/017048 mailed October 21, 2004
	C6	Gardes, Robert, "Multi-Seam Completion Technology," Natural Gas Quarterly, E&P, June 2004, pp. 78-81
	C7	Baiton, Nicholas, "Maximize Oil Production and Recovery," Vertizontal Brochure, received 10/2/2002, 4 pages
	C8	Dreiling, Tim, McClelland, M.L. and Bilyeu, Brad, "Horizontal & High Angle Air Drilling in the San Juan Basin, New Mexico," Dated on or about 3/6/2003, pp. 1-11
	C9	Fong, David K., Wong, Frank Y., and McIntyre, Frank J., "An Unexpected Benefit of Horizontal Wells on Offset Vertical Well Productivity in Vertical Miscible Floods," Canadian SPE/CIM/CANMET Paper No. HWC94-09, paper to be presented March 20-23, 1994, Calgary, Canada, 10 pages
	C10	Fischer, Perry A., "What's Happening in Production," World Oil, June 2001, p. 27
	C11	Website of PTTC Network News Volume 7, 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2001, Table of Contents, <a href="http://www.pttc.org/./news/v7n1nn4.htm">http://www.pttc.org/./news/v7n1nn4.htm</a> printed 04/25/2003, 3 pages
	C12	Cox, Richard J.W., "Testing Horizontal Wells While Drilling Underbalanced," Delft University of Technology, August 1998, 68 pages
	C13	McLennan, John, et al., "Underbalanced Drilling Manual," Gas Research Institute, Chicago, Illinois, GRI Reference No. GRI-97/0236, copyright 1997, 502 pages
	C14	The Need for a Viable Multi-Seam Completion Technology for the Powder River Basin, Current Practice and Limitations, Gardes Energy Services, Inc., Believed to be 2003 (8 pages)
	C15	Langley, Diane, "Potential Impact of Microholes Is Far From Diminutive," JPT Online, <a href="http://www.spe.org/spe/jpt/jps">http://www.spe.org/spe/jpt/jps</a> , November 2004 (5 pages)
	C16	Consol Energy Slides, "Generating Solutions, Fueling Change," Presented at Appalachian E&P Forum, Harris Nesbitt Corp., Boston, October 14, 2004 (29 pages)
	C17	Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration (3 pages), International Search Report (3 pages), and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (5 pages) re International Application No. PCT/US2004/024518 mailed November 10, 2004
	C18	Schenk, Christopher J., "Geologic Definition and Resource Assessment of Continuous (Unconventional) Gas Accumulations - the U.S. Experience," Website, <a href="http://aapg.confex.com/.../">http://aapg.confex.com/.../</a> , printed November 16, 2004 (1 page)

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	Applicant <b>Joseph A. Zupanick</b>		
	Filing Date <b>July 29, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit <b>3673</b>	

Other Documents (include Author, Title, Date, and Place of Publication)		
Examiner Initial	Desig. ID	Document
	C19	U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, "Characteristics of Discrete and Basin-Centered Parts of the Lower Silurian Regional Oil and Gas Accumulation, Appalachian Basin: Preliminary Results From a Data Set of 25 oil and Gas Fields," U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 98-216, Website, <a href="http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1998/of98-216/introl.htm">http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1998/of98-216/introl.htm</a> , printed November 16, 2004 (2 pages)
	C20	Zupanick, J., "Coalbed Methane Extraction," 28 <sup>th</sup> Mineral Law Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, October 16-17, 2003 (48 pages)
	C21	Zupanick, J., "CDX Gas – Pinnacle Project," Presentation at the 2002 Fall Meeting of North American Coal Bed Methane Forum, Morgantown, West Virginia, October 30, 2002 (23 pages)
	C22	Lukas, Andrew, Lucas Drilling Pty Ltd., "Technical Innovation and Engineering Xstrata – Oak Creek Coal Pty Limited," Presentation at Coal Seam Gas & Mine Methane Conference in Brisbane, November 22-23, 2004 (51 pages)
	C23	Field, Tony, Mitchell Drilling, "Let's Get Technical – Drilling Breakthroughs in Surface to In-Seam in Australia," Presentation at Coal Seam Gas & Mine Methane Conference in Brisbane, November 22-23, 2004 (20 pages)
	C24	Zupanick, Joseph A, "Coal Mine Methane Drainage Utilizing Multilateral Horizontal Wells," 2005 SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit, February 28 – March 2, 2005, Salt Lake City, Utah (6 pages)
	C25	The Official Newsletter of the Cooperative Research Centre for Mining Technology and Equipment, CMTE News 7, "Tight-Radius Drilling Clinches Award," June 2001, 1 page

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